

Fine, blaming the media is a time-honored tactic. I just hope they're being cynical about it. I hope they don't really believe the nonsense they're trying to sell.

**CHARLES TAYLOR WILL NOW BE
HELD ACCOUNTABLE**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a great day for peace and justice in West Africa. Former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, was arrested and sent to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor will face 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law for crimes committed against the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor committed horrific crimes during his presidency and his arrest will no doubt send shockwaves through Africa and a strong message that tyranny will not be accepted by the people and that you cannot escape justice.

I would like to commend Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for her courage in calling on Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor. She did this with no small risk to herself and her fragile country. It is my hope that the international community will come to Liberia's aid and help her as she rebuilds her war torn country.

This is a new dawn for West Africa. The United States and the international community stand with the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone and honor them for their courage to seek justice.

**A TRIBUTE TO MR. ELLIS A.
MERCER**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Ellis A. Mercer and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Ellis A. Mercer was born on March 8, 1960 in Brooklyn, New York. He is the son of Mr. Mercer and Mamie Mercer, and the oldest sibling of Eva Maria Mercer-Andrews.

He received his education in the New York City public schools, graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School with a Regents Diploma in Mathematics and Electronics. Mr. Mercer then attended Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., where he received an A.S. degree in Data Processing, A.S. degree in Accounting, and a B.S. degree in Computer Systems Management.

After receiving his A.S. degree in Data Processing, Mr. Mercer was hired as the University's Assistant Athletic Director. As the Assistant Athletic Director, he managed the University's Sports Complex and oversaw the University's Intramural Sports Program in which over 1,500 students participated. This is where his passion for youth involvement in education and sports began. In 1990 he returned to New

York and was hired as the City of New York Parks & Recreation's Brooklyn Sports Coordinator, where he coordinated and supervised various citywide programs, including Reebok's Coup de Hoop and the Junior Knicks Basketball clinics and tournaments. Mr. Mercer volunteered to recruit and coach the New York's National Youth Game Volleyball Team in Atlanta, GA. He implemented and supervised the Pro-Am NAACP's (3 on 3) and Midnight Basketball tournaments in Brooklyn. He also umpired softball games for the New York City Housing Authority. At the Brownsville Recreation Center he was employed as the After-school Director. After only three years as director, his program was recommended for use as the model program for all City of New York Parks & Recreation After-school programs. Mr. Mercer's program included extensive homework: help and tutoring that helped students sustain the academic standards set by the Board of Education. He also conducted workshops for SAT and ACT testing. He promoted local and overnight college and university tours, including tours to Howard University and Johnson & Wales University. Mr. Mercer also conducted free workshops for over 500 adult participants seeking postal employment.

Mr. Mercer is now a manager at the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center located in Harlem, New York. He also served as Chairman of the DC37, Local 299-2005 election committee.

As Worshipful Master of African 459 Lodge #63 for the past 2 years, Mr. Mercer continues to see that his lodge serves its community by sending 5 children to Camp Eureka in Upstate N.Y., issuing 3 scholarships to students enrolling in, or attending college, and continuing the lodge's annual feeding program and Christmas toy drive.

Mr. Mercer is a deacon at The Friendship Baptist Church. He also serves as the President of the Brotherhood Men's Committee at Friendship.

Mr. Mercer is married to Sandra Elaine Gibson-Mercer and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Britney Elise Mercer.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Ellis A. Mercer, as he offers his talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

**TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. OLYMPIC
CURLING TEAM**

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Olympic Curling Team for its outstanding success at the XX Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

By defeating Great Britain 8-6, the men's team, which consists of Shawn Rojeski and John Shuster of Chisholm, Minnesota, Joe Polo of Cass Lake, as well as fellow Minnesotans Pete Fenson, Scott Baird and Coach Bob Fenson, won the first Olympic medal of any kind for a curling team from the United States.

The women's team members, Courtney George of Duluth, along with Cassie Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Jessica Schultz, Maureen Brunt, and Coach Neil Doese, also dem-

onstrated great skill, determination and mental toughness during the competition in Turin.

Scottish immigrants introduced the sport of curling in North America, first to Canada in 1759 and then to America around 1832. Today, there are approximately 16,000 curlers who belong to 135 clubs in 32 states. Curling debuted as a medal sport at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. I know that the pursuit of excellence demonstrated by Team USA at the 2006 Olympic Games will inspire many people across the country to take up the sport.

Through hard work and outstanding dedication, the team succeeded on the sports world's most prestigious stage. Above all, the sportsmanship the team members demonstrated during the competition embraced the true Olympic spirit.

The curling team's bronze medal victory was truly a golden moment for the State of Minnesota and the entire nation. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the U.S. Curling Team and in wishing them continued success.

**COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH**

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month.

Since 1987, the month of March has been designated to give special prominence to the women who have made lasting contributions to our society.

Over the last two centuries, the achievements made by women have been nothing short of phenomenal.

During this month, we have an opportunity to recognize Rosa Parks for revolutionizing a successful movement that forced racial integration in America through her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a public bus.

Additionally, we must acknowledge Coretta Scott King, the first Lady of the Civil Rights movement and widow of the incomparable Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who transformed her grief into an aspiration to eradicate social injustice and achieve equality for all.

We must also remember Hattie McDaniel, whose dynamic career as an acclaimed singer and actress on film, television, and radio led her to become the first African-American to win the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award in 1940. This great achievement also resulted in her becoming the 29th image to appear on the Black Heritage commemorative stamp series in January 2006.

Mr. Speaker, what makes these icons so extraordinary is that many of their actions, and sacrifices have not only added to the richness and depth of American history, but made the present better for the world.

Yet, even as we remember the famous women who have made history by traveling in space, like Mae Jemison and Sally K. Ride, or curing disease, like Marie Curie and Mary Eliza Mahoney or leading revolutions like Sojourner Truth or Alice Paul, we should also be mindful of those who have devoted their lives to the people of their communities, never seeking the spotlight of history.